

WILMINGTON 2012-13 Progress Report

CITY OF WILMINGTON PUBLIC INFORMATION REPORT

Winter 2014: Special Progress Report

Check inside

Learn more about major projects completed last year and find out what's coming up this year.



Your City At Work: By the Numbers

Each year, the city's 1,000 employees provide a variety of services to help maintain the community and keep it safe. These services are paid for with property tax dollars, user fees and state funding. Following is some information that illustrates what citizens received for their money in fiscal year 2012-13 as well as upcoming projects.

Public Safety

- Police Department-174,000 calls for service
- Fire Department-10,906 response calls

Streets

- Miles of roadways maintained: 400
- Miles of sidewalks maintained: 439

Signs, Lights, Signals

- Signs manufactured and maintained: 17,000
- Miles of street markings maintained: 400
- Street lights maintained: 9,260
- Traffic signals maintained: 212

Stormwater

- 57 miles of ditches cleaned (manual)
- 3,077 tons of street sweeping debris collected
- Almost 10,000 miles of streets swept
- 130 storm pipe cave-in repairs

Traffic Engineering

- 9,256 streetlights
- 212 traffic signals
- 61 miles of cable for traffic signal system
- 20,000 street and traffic signs

Parks & landscaping

- 537 acres of public parks (34 public parks)
- 60 acres of greenways (21 locations)
- 184 acres of athletic and recreational facilities
- More than 9 acres of city-owned lots (24 locations)
- Approximately 71 miles of rights-of-way (107 locations) within the city
- Approximately 66 miles of rights-of-way (28 locations) for the NCDOT
- Approximately 13 miles of 127 alley locations
- Approximately 5 miles of medians (17 locations)
- More than 20 traffic speed reduction devices
- 55 dog waste stations throughout the city
- 35 playground units
- 270 trees planted

Solid Waste

- Trash picked up – 23,593 tons (47,186,540 lbs.)
- Recycling picked up – 6,110 tons (12,221,000 lbs.)
- Yard waste picked up – 13,517 tons (27,034,060 lbs.)

Wilmington at-a-glance

City population, 2012:
109,922

Median age, 2010: 34.7

Gender 2010:
Female 52.2%
Male 47.8%

Race 2010:
73.5% White
19.9% Black
4% American Indian/
Asian/Other
6.1% Hispanic

City Land Area:
52.76 square miles

8th largest city in NC
(population)

Source: US Census Bureau QuickFacts



2012-2013 Infrastructure Improvements At a glance

5-year maintenance improvement plan

Work on the city's 5-year maintenance plan continued as part of the \$41 million plan to make repairs to streets and other public facilities that had been put on hold during the economic downturn. Several streets were repaved and stormwater drainage improvements were made in several areas, including:

- Park Avenue
- 52nd Street
- Rose Avenue
- Parts of College Acres neighborhood
- Parts of Pine Valley neighborhood

When possible, maintenance repairs are being coordinated with other city departments or other agencies such as NCDOT and Cape Fear Public Utility Authority in order to be more cost-effective and reduce inconvenience to citizens.



Randall Parkway



- 13-month project to widen Randall Parkway has just been completed; road widened to four lanes to alleviate heavy traffic in vicinity of Kerr Avenue and College Road
- Project also extended Cross-City Trail from Randall pond bridge to Marlboro Drive
- More than half of funding for \$6 million project comes from federal, state monies

Riverwalk projects completed

- Completed repairs for underground support of the Riverwalk near Muters Alley
- Extensive work completed to replace or repair support beams under the riverwalk at the foot of Market Street
- 1,000-foot section of the northern riverwalk, adjacent to the planned marina, has been completed



2012-2013 Recreation Improvements At a glance

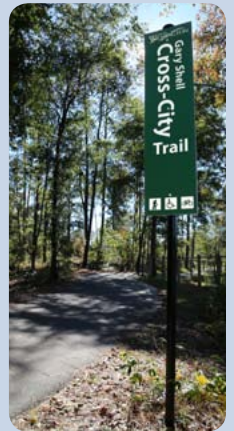
Piney Ridge Nature Preserve

- Completion of Phase I of park, formerly named Alderman Park
- 40-acre park includes the Stanley Rehder Carnivorous Plant Garden as well as hub for Cross-City Trail
- Located on Canterbury Drive next to Alderman Elementary School



Gary Shell Cross-City Trail

- Completion of a .75-mile section through Autumn Hall that connects the College Acres neighborhood with Eastwood Road
- Completion of a 1.6 mile-section along Randall Parkway as part of road widening project
- Completion of a .4 mile-section along Independence Boulevard, between Ashton Drive and Converse Drive, to include a crossing at Shipyard Boulevard
- Completion of improved pedestrian crossings where the trail crosses Independence Blvd (at Park Avenue) and Military Cutoff Road (at Eastwood Road)



Seagate Park

- Work began on a neighborhood park in Seagate area, expected to be completed by early spring
- 1-acre park at 6001 Mariner Lane is a memorial to original property owners, the late Edward John Haneman ("Captain" Eddy Haneman) and his wife Mary Haneman, who were well known in area for sport fishing/recreation in the 1950s-1990s

2012-2013 Stormwater Drainage Improvements At a glance

- Cardinal Drive near George Trask Drive – \$673,000
- Smaller projects:
 - Replacement of drainage system at the intersection of Front and Walnut streets
 - Replacement of drainage system at the intersection of Water and Ann streets
 - Drainage improvements with Randall Parkway widening
 - Drainage improvements with Bradley Creek sidewalk installation
 - Drainage improvements with Muters Alley/Riverwalk repairs

- Drainage improvements made in these areas as part of street repair projects in city's 5-year improvement plan:

- Rose Avenue
- Park Avenue
- Longstreet Drive
- Barksdale Road, in conjunction with CFPWA work



2012-2013 Public Safety Improvements At a glance

Gun/gang prevention efforts

City has begun several additional initiatives over past year to reduce recent gun/gang violence, including:

- New five-member WPD gang unit focused on deterring/dismantling gang related activity and crimes
- 10 “overhires” being hired to help make sure WPD is fully staffed at all times
- New 14-man patrol unit in public housing areas made up of seven WPD officers and seven NHC deputies
- Expanded patrol of 64 WPD officers/NHC Sheriff’s deputies – 32 officers each from the WPD and NHC Sheriff’s Department
- New WPD Mobile Field Force – 12-officer unit geared up to respond quickly to crime, or fear of crime, anywhere in the city



- Coordination of series of community conversations in partnership with key agencies to get input about strategies that can be implemented to help reduce criminal and gun-related violence
- From these sessions, series of recommendations for action by public policy makers will be finalized this spring



Wilmington Firefighter Memorial

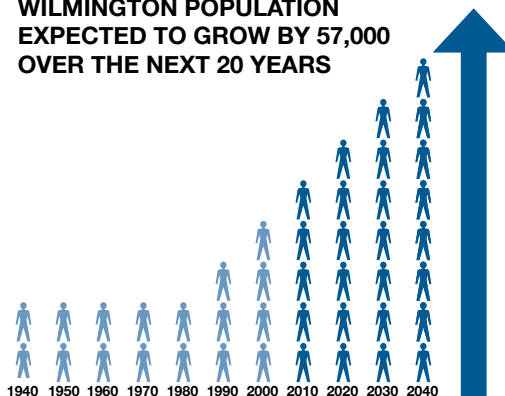
- Wilmington Firefighter Memorial, located at the Emile Park Fire Station, officially dedicated on Sept. 11
- Memorial honors the seven Wilmington firefighters who have lost their lives in line of duty since the department began in the 1800s, as well as the 343 NYC firefighters who perished during the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attack
- Memorial surrounded by seven statues representing Wilmington’s fallen firefighters
- Bronze statue of firefighter in the center holds piece of steel recovered from World Trade Center following 9-11 attack
- Memorial paid for through private donations

2012-2013 Service Improvements At a glance

Long-term plan for growth

- City launches effort to develop 20-year plan for growth to deal with coming demographic changes and increased population
- Plan development includes extensive citizen input and engagement effort
- So far, more than 200 citizens have attended meetings and hundreds of ideas, comments and photos have been submitted online

WILMINGTON POPULATION EXPECTED TO GROW BY 57,000 OVER THE NEXT 20 YEARS



Recycling

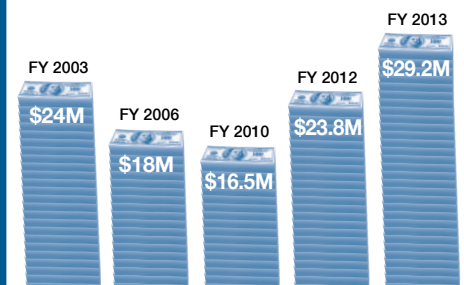
- In January 2013, city changed to biweekly recycling pickup schedule after delivering more than 20,000 new 90-gallon blue recycling carts
- Citizen participation in voluntary recycling program has increased by 63% - now more than 80% of all city trash customers choose to recycle
- Amount of material being recycled has increased by 25%



2012-13 Budget – Outlook improves

- Budget improves after several years of cutbacks
- Balanced budget with increased savings funds
- 5 cents of city tax rate dedicated for \$41 million 5-year infrastructure improvement plan
- Wilmington’s debt rate low compared to other NC cities
- AA+ bond rating due to good financial condition

CITY’S SAVINGS ACCOUNT



Upcoming Improvements At a glance

Inland greens Park

- Construction on new park scheduled to begin in February; completion expected in fall of 2014
- \$1.95 million project includes extensive stormwater drainage improvements on city-owned Inland Greens golf course and Wiregrass Road
- Project also includes passive park with walking trail and 9-hole, par-3 golf course



Riverwalk repairs

- Repairs to the underground supporting wall at foot of Orange and Ann streets
- Section behind Brooks Building (between Dock and Market streets) will be demolished and replaced
- Repairs to section of underground supporting wall in front of Federal Courthouse will begin in late 2014; US Coast Guard owns this portion of riverwalk and will coordinate necessary repairs with city's planned improvements to Riverfront Park
- City project will immediately follow in 2015, expected to take approximately one year to complete



5-year infrastructure improvement plan

- Work on city's 5-year maintenance plan will continue this year
- Major projects include paving Greenville Loop Road and additional sections of Cardinal/Clear Run drives this summer
- Other paving projects to begin this year: Racine Drive, Covil Avenue, Darlington Avenue, 41st Street, Floral Parkway, Audobon Boulevard

Northern Riverfront Park

- Now that land has been purchased, initial feedback will be gathered about what amenities to include in this 6.63-acre passive park
- Mid-year, city will solicit proposals for park design that will include a public input process



Gary Shell Cross-City Trail

- Construction of a 1.3-mile section now underway; expected to be completed this summer
- Segment will run up South 17th Street beginning at St. Andrews Drive, cross College Road with pedestrian amenities, and connect with Wade Park



Municipal Golf Course

- Work to begin this year to refurbish the 18-hole Donald Ross-designed municipal golf course located on Pine Grove Drive
- First full repair and restoration of Muni's greens since it was constructed in 1926

New riverwalk construction on northern end

- Construction of additional 1100 feet of riverwalk that will connect with existing section adjacent to Isabel Holmes Bridge is underway, to be completed later this year
- Final 300-foot section connecting two sections referenced above will be built later this year when a privately owned restaurant complex next to the marina is constructed
- When completed later this year, riverwalk will be continuous 1.75 mile stretch from Chandler's Wharf to Isabel Holmes Bridge



New fire stations

- Began implementation of plan to relocate four fire stations and consolidate them into two new stations
- Location of new stations will help improve response times to emergencies in more up-to-date facilities
- Stations to be replaced: Station #3 on Princess Place Drive, Station #4 on Wallace Drive, Station #5 Wellington Avenue, Station #6 on Carolina Beach Road
- New stations:
 - Station #3 on Cinema Drive – construction to begin this spring;
 - Station #5 on Shipyard Boulevard, near Carolina Beach Road – construction expected to begin in 2015
- New stations will replace aging stations on Wellington Avenue and Carolina Beach Road
- Much of costs being funded through savings from other city construction projects completed under budget

Stormwater drainage improvement projects

- Started Antelope Trail project, expected to be completed this spring – \$300,000
- Expect to begin South Branch Bradley Creek/Michelle Drive project this spring – \$3.2 M
- Expect to begin Phase I of Wisteria/Clearbrook project this summer – \$2.3 M
- Expect to begin Brenda Drive project fall 2014/winter 2015 – \$400,000
- Expect to begin Rogersville Road pipe replacement this winter – \$330,000